March comes in like a lion

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3月のライオン

Chapter 20

A Gift (PART I)

December.

With Christmas just around the corner, I once again received a call from Kyoko.

YOU FORGOT SOME-THING?

A WATCH?

MM—

MM?

...AH.

I FOUND IT.

THAT'S WHY I SAID TO WAIT AT MECDONALD'S IN FRONT OF THE STATION...

OH COME ON! I THINK I CAUGHT A COLD... IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

ACHOO!

NO WAY, THAT PLACE IS SO NOISY.

IF I DON'T WEAR IT, HE'LL GET UPSET.

GOTOU GAVE IT TO ME NOT TOO LONG AGO.

THAT'S WON-DERFUL.

SFX: ZUBI.... (SNIFF....)

WHY WON'T YOU LET ME JUST GO TO YOUR PLACE?

.....

YOU'RE ASKING WHY...

REI.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT NOW? WANT ME TO GUESS?

.....

WHAT A SCARY EXPRES-SION.

JUST JOKING.

HEHEH

HEY.

ANY PLANS FOR THE END OF THE YEAR?

YOU'RE GONNA COME BACK, RIGHT?

NO...

MY MATCH SCHEDULE IS PRETTY PACKED.

I HAVE TO TRAIN.

MATCHES? DON'T YOUR MATCHES FOR THIS YEAR END WITH YASUI-SAN ON THE 24TH?

.....

AH, OH YEA, SPEAKING OF YASUI-SAN,

I HEARD HE FINALLY DECIDED TO DIVORCE.

EVEN THOUGH HE'S NORMALLY A MODEST PERSON,

AND KIND OF MEEK,

WHEN HE LOSES, HE GETS VIOLENTLY DRUNK AND GAMBLES, YOU KNOW?

HIS WIFE HAS PUT UP WITH IT WELL ALL THIS TIME.

BUT THINK ABOUT THE POOR DAUGHTER.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN SCARY FOR HER.

SHE'S HAD TO LIVE UNDER THE SAME ROOF AS A FATHER WHO BECOMES A DIFFERENT PERSON WHENEVER HE LOSES, YOU KNOW?

Ah...

BUT, THE LITTLE GIRL STILL SAID,

I can't stand it.

I really can't stand it.

"I WANT TO BE WITH DADDY FOR CHRISTMAS."

the way Kyoko's words cling so heavily.

I can't stand

IT SURE MAKES YOU WANT TO CRY...

DON'T YOU THINK?

HEY, REI. ARE YOU LISTENING?

But above all,

COME ON.

what I can't stand about these words fraught with poison

...GEEZ.

is me who wants to hear them.

YOUR SCARF'S GONNA FLY AWAY.

IF YOU'RE GONNA WEAR IT, THEN MAKE SURE TO WEAR IT PROPERLY.

CHILDREN ARE SO PITIFUL.

SINCE THEY CAN'T CHOOSE THEIR OWN PARENTS...

AH, BUT ON SECOND THOUGHT,

YOU'RE DIFFERENT.

YOU CHOSE YOUR OWN PARENTS, DIDN'T YOU.

YOU CHOSE SOMEBODY ELSE'S FATHER.

SFX: KYAHAHA

Ah,

Sure.

Hey, Dad, can I open it now?

SFX: KYAHAHA

SFX: HAHAHA

SFX: KYAHAHA

SFX: PUN SUKA (HMPH)

Ohh.

It's a Game Bomb.

GAME BOMB

Geeez.

Come on! What is this?!

Dad, I'm already in middle school!

What's with this giant teddy bear!

SFX: EI EI (HYAH HYAH)

SFX: POKA SUKA (WHACK)

SFX: POKA SUKA (WHACK)

There was no way they wouldn't understand

the price and the meaning

of those beautiful shogi pieces

and Father's feelings...

or anyone who is aiming to become a shogi player...

For a child of this family.

Would a toy have been better for you too?

What do you think, Rei?

At that time,

Kyoko

and Ayumu

must have been really hurt...

No...

Thank you very much.

There was no way they wouldn't understand

I'm really happy

to receive this.

HEY,

ISN'T IT HEART-WRENCHING?

OR A DADDY WHO COMES HOME DEFEATED...

A DADDY WHO COMES HOME VICTORIOUS,

SO...

WHICH WOULD BE MORE FITTING

FOR THEIR LAST CHRISTMAS TOGETHER?

CUT: MORNING. BOOK: REPORT CARD. KIRIYAMA REI

SO,

HERE.

ACTUALLY, MATH AND PHYSICS ARE REALLY GOOD

HMM. EXCEPT FOR P E AND MUSIC, EVERYTHING ELSE LOOKS ABOUT AVERAGE.

通知表

桐山 零

Are you telling me to lose?

EHH!?

No, that's how I make a living!!!

It'll get quite dangerous if your matches continue to increase next term ☆

Even though you barely met the required attendance,

Ohoho Ahaha You have to be careful ☆

AHAHA ☆

YOU NEED TO BE IN SENDAGAYA BEFORE 9:30, RIGHT?

YOU SHOULD WATCH THE TIME...

HAVING MATCHES UP UNTIL THE CLOSING CEREMONY.

STILL, YOU'RE REALLY BUSY.

HEY,

YOU WANNA COME BACK AFTER YOUR MATCH IS OVER?

Dammit! I wasn't invited! Why?!

WELL, I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

IT'LL BE TWO GUYS, SORDIDLY PLAYING SHOGI AND EATING CAKE...

You're a teacher

No, I haven't heard about it.

Of course I haven't.

Please don't tell me about it.

Have you heard about it?

Speaking of which, after today's closing ceremony,

our class is apparently going to host a Christmas party.

2-B クリスマス

POSTER 2-B
CHRISTMAS
TANAKA'S HOUSE
GARAGE
~ 17:00
DRINKS 500 YEN
GIFT EXCHANGE 1000 YEN

Heey, Kiriyamaaa!

At least wait for me to finiiish!

DOESN'T THIS JUST SAY THAT I'M A MEAN TEACHER!?

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE.

キャーッ!!

—UKE.

OH NO!!!

I TURN AROUND FOR A BIT AND HE DISAP-PEARS!?

Poof.

"This is just like report card time"...

In one year...

There was once time I suddenly thought,

I wonder when...

Christmas became a painful thought.

How much love did I receive from them?

my parents...

my family,

my friends,

At the end of the year, tallying up

In what way was the love expressed?

Yasui 6th dan...

The doors are closing.

Please stand clear.

せんだがや
SENDAGAYA

Senda-gaya.

Senda-gaya.

STILL SAID, "I WANT TO BE WITH DADDY FOR CHRISTMAS."

BUT THE LITTLE GIRL

AT LEAST BEFORE CHRISTMAS... HUH...

ESETAN

The father who comes home victorious,

Or the father who comes home defeated!...

X'mas

NoonStar

Which would be more fitting for their last Christmas together?

Merry Xmas

SALE

What would you say?

Rei...

X'mas

merry christmas

Chapter 20 end

Sounds like a baby crying in the night.
A terrifying cat (looks like an owl).

3月のライオン

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Chica Umino